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There are few things more trying to that great virtue, patience, than a large public aquarium, especially in its preparation, before it is ready for the reception of animals. It is to this lack of patience on the part of the directors of the Royal Westminster Aquarium, and to their absolute refusal to allow me to have proper engineering assistance during its construction, and to general mismanagement, that its present confused state, and its unsatisfactory condition in every way, is due. On this account I resigned my post of adviser to the society, as I found it useless to advise when advice was recklessly disregarded. Aquarium work, being hydraulic engineering on a small scale, is essentially the work of an engineer, and not that of an architect, unless he is also an engineer and a mathematician. There is for aquaria a great and important future, both as regards their influence on science and as pecuniary speculations, if indeed, as I much doubt, there can be any real severing of these two interests. Success, however, must always be the result of a careful study and representation of what nature does, and of a strict avoidance of the recent heresies to which I have in this communication adverted. — *Popular Science Review*.

RECENT LITERATURE.

TWO YEARS IN CALIFORNIA.¹— This book contains apparently a reliable and useful account of California, its scenic and climatic features, its people, with hints for tourists and settlers, and a candid chapter on the Chinese in California. The authoress gives these people credit for a business sagacity, fidelity, industry, and economy which render them a desirable class of immigrants. By their aid, it is claimed, the natural wealth of California has been advanced beyond what it would otherwise have been by a quarter of a century. The literary execution of the book is not rarely capable of improvement, but the work is the result of an honest attempt to impart the fruits of close observation during a two years' residence in California.

COOK'S MANUAL OF THE APIARY.²— A cheap and reliable manual of bee-keeping has been needed by amateurs and beginners in the art, and here we have in print Professor Cook's lectures on the subject, delivered annually to his students, forming a guide which we can unhesitatingly commend as sufficiently scientific and practical. The Italian variety is recommended as greatly superior to the German. As regards the treatment of foul brood, we would inquire whether carbolic acid or

¹ *Two Years in California*. By MARY CONE. With Illustrations. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. 1876. 12mo, pp. 238. \$1.75.

² *Manual of the Apiary*. By A. J. COOK. Lansing, Mich. 1876. 8vo, pp. 59.

other disinfectants would not prevent the spread of this contagious disease. The description of the queen bee is excellent. Though she has a sting, she can seldom be induced to make use of it. Says our author, "I have often tried to provoke a queen's anger, but never with any evidence of success." Professor Cook adopts the prevalent opinion that the queen's development is conditioned by the richer quality and greater quantity of her food, "perhaps aided by a more ample habitation." We would here inquire whether the temperature of the queen's cell differs from that of the drone or worker cells, in fact, whether temperature as well as richer and more abundant food is not a factor in the production of queens; and, on the other hand, what brings about the production of workers, of which, we are told in this manual, there are from twenty thousand to forty thousand in every good colony. If some one would offer a prize for the best essay on the causes of retardation in the worker bee, and of acceleration in the queen, and another prize for the best essay on parthenogenesis in the honey bee, since the matter is by no means exhausted, he would confer a favor on the public and aid in the advance of physiology. Meanwhile we look to our agricultural stations and colleges for original work in this direction.

WHEELER'S GEOLOGY OF THE UNITED STATES WEST OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH MERIDIAN.¹—This bulky volume gives the results of several years' work by the survey in portions of our western Territories. It embraces reports by Mr. G. K. Gilbert on portions of Nevada, Utah, California, and Arizona explored in 1871 and 1872, already noticed in this journal, with a second on portions of New Mexico and Arizona explored in 1873. The late Mr. A. R. Marvine contributes a chapter on the geology of the route from Saint George, Utah, to Gila River, Arizona; and there are reports on the geology of certain parts of Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico, by Mr. E. G. Howell; on a portion of Colorado surveyed in 1873, by Mr. J. J. Stevenson, and a mineralogical and agricultural report, by Dr. O. Loew. The heliotype plates add much to the general interest of the work.

APPALACHIA.²—This is the organ of the Appalachian Mountain Club, devoted to the exploration of the mountains of the Eastern States, particularly the White Mountains of New Hampshire, which gives evidence of vigor by the publication of the first number of its journal within a few weeks after its fifth meeting. It contains, besides other matter, a number of papers of interest to tourists and geographical students, under the following titles: Atlantic System of Mountains, by Prof. C. H. Hitchcock; A Day on Tripyramid, by Prof. C. E. Fay; Two New Forms of Mountain Barometer, by S. W. Holman; New Map of the White Mountains, by J. B. Henck, Jr.; East Branch of the Pemigewasset, by W. Upham.

¹ *Report upon Geographical and Geological Explorations and Surveys west of the One Hundredth Meridian, in charge of Lieutenant G. M. Wheeler, U. S. Engineers.* III. Geology. Washington. 1875. 4to, pp. 681. With 13 plates and cuts.

² *Appalachia.* Vol. i., No. 1. June, 1876. Boston: A. Williams & Co. Published for the Appalachian Mountain Club. 8vo, pp. 62. 50 cents.